(c) whether the fee paid by the students would be returned alongwith interest and penalty in the event of approval not being given by the UGC;

(d) what is the mechanism to check such courses being run by the different Universities/Institutes which do not have app*roval of the UGC; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to protect interest of the students who are pursuing this course and are in the final year?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Allahabad Agricultural Institute (AAI). Allahabad, is a minority institution. As per the information provided by the AAI, the Institute started its distance education centres in the year 2002 and is conducting the course of Bachelor of Physiotherapy in over 150 centres all over. the country enrolling 4215 students. The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Distance Education Council (DEC) have not accorded their approval to the AAI for conducting Bachelor of Physiotherapy Courses through the distance mode.

(d) and (e) The UGC is mandated to maintain and coordinate the standards of Higher Education in the country and the DEC maintains standards of education through the distance mode. The Commission has written to all institutions, deemed to be universities, *inter-alia,* suggesting to observe its guidelines on the subject.

Improvements in Government Schools

† 2694. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether children of 71 per cent of families in urban areas ancf children of 77 per cent of families in rural areas get admissions in the Government schools;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether these Government schools need a considerable improvement;

(d) if so, whether such improvements have been identified by Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which these improvements would be effected by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to 6th All India Education Survey (30th September, 1993) conducted by NCERT, 81.63% of students in rural areas and 46.72% of students in urban areas study in Government or local body schools.

(c) to (f) Most Government schools come under the control of State Governments and which are competent to provide the required facilities. As far as the schools run by the Central Government are concerned, improvement is a continuous process and is attended to from time to time as and when the need arises.

Rape and dowry death

2695. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT: SHRI
R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 44 women are alleged to be raped every day in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 18 dowry deaths are reported every day in the country; and

(c) if so, the details there of with the measures to ensure empowerment of women?